



Ovation giving to all

DON'T miss *Cruise Weekly* next week for details on how you can be in with the chance to win an awesome *Ovation*-themed prize from Royal Caribbean Int'l.

Anniversary wraps up

A FLOTILLA of historic vessels and Coast Guard ships will next week welcome Cunard's *Queen Mary 2* into New York City next week to mark the end of the line's 175th anniversary voyage.

As part of the commemorative sailing, the ship called at Halifax, Nova Scotia to pay tribute to the ancestral home of the company's founder Sir Samuel Cunard.

Tying up at 7:15am, the day of celebrations will include *QM2* Captain Kevin Oprey ringing the ceremonial closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

Queen Mary 2 will set sail back across the Atlantic that evening, sent off with a light and sound show over the ship at 9:30pm, in front of the Statue of Liberty.

New Cape Town port

A LUXURY cruise ship terminal will be built at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town, with a tender for construction awarded by transport authorities.

Developer V&A Waterfront will build, operate and manage the terminal at a cost of R179 million (A\$19.3 million), with forecasts showing the city will welcome 10,000 cruise passengers annually.

1m cruise pax for Vanuatu

ALREADY the most popular destination for cruise passengers departing from Australia, the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu could be welcoming one-million visitors from cruise ships per year by 2020, Carnival Australia says.

Fresh from smashing the one-million pax milestone in 2014 (*CW* 26 May), CAU chief executive Ann Sherry set the next hurdle by forecasting numbers to the South Pacific to more than double in the space of only six years.

Sherry was speaking at a keynote business partnership conference in Vanuatu onboard

P&O Cruises' *Pacific Dawn*.

According to the 2014 CLIA Australasia Cruise Industry Source Market Report, the South Pacific region saw 392,549 Aussies cruise the region last year.

The figure was an 18.7% jump on the 330,670 recorded in 2013, and as cruise lines continue to pump capacity into the market, the tally will grow ever higher.

"Ten per cent market penetration in Australia is achievable within five years, the equivalent of three million passengers a year," Sherry said, "with more than a million travelling to the South Pacific based on current itineraries".

With greater numbers comes the need for new infrastructure and access to new destinations, something Carnival Australia said it was eager to continue working with Vanuatu to help materialise.

Sherry added the group was encouraging Vanuatu to realise its economic potential via cruising.

"There are many strands to Carnival Australia's commitment to Vanuatu and we are always looking to do more," Sherry said.

Drinks on Celebrity

A CHOICE of three bonus offers are on the table for passengers booking a Celebrity Cruises sailing of three nights or longer in an Oceanview stateroom or above.

The bonuses apply in the latest 123GO promotion this week for bookings on selected departures made by 31 Jul 2015.

Guests can choose from a free Classic Beverage Package for two, free gratuities for two or up to US\$300 onboard credit per cabin.

Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise industry news & photos plus a full page from the **Travel Industry Exhibition**.

Opera now full voice

THREE out of four ships in the Opera-Class of the MSC Cruises fleet have completed drydock renovations as part of the line's Renaissance program, with *MSC Opera* this week returning to sea.

The two-year upgrade project sees the four vessels split down the middle and a new, pre-built middle section inserted.

New cabins, redesigned dining options and features including an outdoor water spray park and LEGO-branded kids clubs were all installed as part of the work.

So far, *MSC Sinfonia*, *MSC Opera* & *MSC Armonia* have undergone the work, with *MSC Lirica* to go.

MEANWHILE, *MSC Opera* has been deployed to Venice for the remainder of Europe's summer.

Cruising hot for Cuba

CARNIVAL Corp cruise brand fathom is now on the hunt for humanitarian projects in Cuba to offer its passengers after receiving rights to visit the Caribbean island.

Week-long itineraries to the line's second destination after the Dominican Republic are priced from US\$2,990pp excluding taxes, port charges & government fees.

Fathom president Tara Russell said the line's ethos remained the same - to provide travellers with an opportunity to get involved in social endeavours in Cuba for the betterment of local communities.

She said fathom had identified 11 possible ports in Cuba to which the 700-pax *MV Adonia* could travel, with an existing terminal in place at Havana and tender access possible elsewhere.



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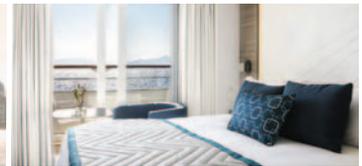
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Cruiseco takes partner O/S

RETAIL cruise charter giant Cruiseco has joined forces with Australian-owned music-themed operator Choose Your Cruise to take operation into int'l markets, starting with the United Kingdom.

Choose Your Cruise specialises in chartering and selling three music oriented voyages dubbed 'Rock The Boat', 'Cruisin Country' and the new 'Bravo - Cruise of the Performing Arts'.

For each departure, the firm sources a range of talent attuned to the voyage's theme for a series of live performances, parties, meet & greets and other activities.

From its debut endeavour, the 'Blue Suede Cruise' in 2010, the Choose Your Cruise model has grown considerably, with more than 450 artists performing and over 30,000 passengers carried, generating a 40% pax repeat rate.

The first Choose Your Cruise departure from the UK will be

the inaugural 'Rock The Boat UK' setting sail from the UK bound for Belgium & France on 30 Sep 2016 onboard the *Celebrity Eclipse*.

A variety of British rock bands have been secured for the event such as Gerry & The Pacemakers, The Mersey Beats, Brian Poole, Chip Hawkes and more.

Choose Your Cruise ceo and founder Mick Manov said the UK was a standout choice due to its geographical positioning to Europe and strong music heritage. "Plus the world's top performers are drawn to the UK so it makes a lot of sense to launch our specialised music-themed cruise from there," Manov added.

No more slime on NCL

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line will cease to provide Nickelodeon branded character activities and interactions onboard its ships after ending its five-year alliance.

Well-known characters such as SpongeBob SquarePants and Dora the Explorer will disappear from NCL ships from Oct, with removal completed by Jan next year.

NCL said it was evaluating its family entertainment offerings.

Korean port resort

PLANS for a huge casino resort to be built at South Korea's North Port in Busan costing one trillion won (A\$1.18b) have been filed with Korean authorities.

The project is a joint venture between Korean retail giant Lotte Group and Malaysian hotel and gaming icon Genting Group.

Multiple hotels, casinos, retail, duty-free shops and water sport facilities will all be part of the completed project, although no tentative open date was advised.

Haimark still in the air

HAIMARK Line says it has yet to finish repairing the *Saint Laurent* ship for damage sustained when it hit a lock wall last month, with two voyages cancelled so far.



CRUISE ships can be equally as twitchy as an airport if making jokes about mortality or matters involving public safety.

Crew members on Royal Caribbean's *Adventure of the Seas* decided not to take any chances when British man Jack Moran inadvertently quipped he was going to 'jump ship' after suffering a minor grievance.

Moran was onboard the seven-day cruise with his wife, their daughter and son-in-law to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary.

After complaining about some wet paint on his clothes and the small size of his cabin, Moran made his seemingly idle remark to his restaurant maitre d'.

On the presumption Moran was going to throw himself overboard, the ship's second captain met with the group on their return from dinner.

The family was informed they had been deemed a "security risk" and that legal advice was being obtained on whether the group could stay onboard.

RCI stationed a security guard outside his cabin for the night and made regular checks inside before disembarking the group at the first port in Belgium, making their own way home.

The line refunded their entire cruise fare, return travel expenses and the cost of the paint-damaged clothing.



CRUISE
NEWS &
VIEWS

with Brett Jardine
GM, CLIA Australasia

2015 Masters Conference

TO BE a successful travel agent, your ability to stand out from your competition is vital. If you take a moment to think about what you do better than anyone else, you will probably realise it is because what you do best is not only what you are passionate about but what you do differently.

If this makes no sense, then you really need to attend the CLIA Masters Conference!

This is a great opportunity to advance your sales and marketing skills (all referenced back to the cruise industry) in a conference environment whilst cruising on board a CLIA Member Cruise Line.

You might think you have all the right sales and marketing tools to be a successful retailer, but I can guarantee you will walk away from this event armed with a much greater understanding of what it takes to move from being a good travel agent to a great one.

Our 2015 Masters Conference is onboard Royal Caribbean's *Quantum of the Seas* which in itself is somewhat ironic when you read back over the opening paragraph of this column.

This year's event has a very limited amount of space still available for you to register - but you will need to be quick.

Partners are welcome to attend so you can share your free time experiencing the beauty of Asia whilst onboard the most innovative ship to be built - yet!



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